

**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 17, 2019**

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) was held on April 17, 2019, at the Headquarters of the Virginia National Guard (Department of Military Affairs) 8000 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Building 430, Richmond.

**Members Present**

- Tom Wozniak, Air Force Association
- Rick Oertel, American Legion
- John Cooper, AMVETS
- Michael Flanagan, Association of the United States Army
- Denice Williams, Disabled American Veterans
- Ken Shelton, Fifth Baptist Veterans' Ministry
- William Ashton, Fleet Reserve Association
- Tim Whitmore, Korean War Veterans Association
- Robert Herbert, Legion of Valor
- Jim Barrett, Marine Corps League
- Frank Wickersham, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
- Jim Cuthbertson, Military Order of the Purple Heart
- Preston Curry, Paralyzed Veterans of America
- David Sitler, Reserve Officers Association
- Dan Boyer, Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Robert Barnette, Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association
- Kevin Hoffman, Virginia National Guard Association
- Judy Reid, Women Marines Association
- Jim Icenhour, Chairman, Board of Veterans Services
- Karla Boughey, Executive Director, Veterans Services Foundation representing Frank Finelli, Chairman
- Deputy Commissioner Steven Combs representing Commissioner John L. Newby II, Department of Veterans Services (DVS)

**Alternate Members Present (representing their VSO)**

- George Corbett, Vietnam Veterans of America

**Members Absent**

- Lauren Augustine, Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)
- William Barrett, Military Order of the World Wars
- Craig Cressman, Navy Mutual Aid Association
- Jon Ostrowski, Non Commissioned Officers Association
- Perry Taylor, Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
- Charles Montgomery, Vietnam Veterans of America

### **Alternate Members Present (not representing their VSO)**

- Rich Mansfield, AMVETS
- Rich Anderson, MOAA
- Carl Holcomb, VaANGEA

### **Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present**

- Carrie Ann Alford, DVS
- Glendalynn Glover, DVS
- Gen. Timothy Williams, The Adjutant General of the Virginia National Guard
- Gen. Walt Mercer (Ret.), Virginia National Guard
- Cassy Russell, Virginia National Guard
- Greg Escobar, DMV
- Brandi Jancaitis, DBHDS
- Bill Coburn, Office of Delegate Emily Brewer

### **Others Present**

- Maggie Wickersham, MOAA
- Angela McConnell, NOVA Vets
- Monti Zimmerman, MOAA
- Faye Early, AUSA

### **Items included in the Agenda Packet**

- Agenda
- December 19, 2018 meeting minutes (Agenda Item V)
- Reports (Agenda Item VI)
  - Board of Veterans Services
  - Veterans Services Foundation
- Handouts for *SAMSA Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide* presentation; powerpoint presentation for JLC and Preventing Suicide – separate packet (Agenda Item IX)
- New Business (Agenda Item X)
  - Report on 2019 JLC Initiatives during Session
  - Potential 2020 JLC initiatives

### **Opening, Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation & Thoughts**

Chairman Frank Wickersham called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m., and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chaplain Denice Williams delivered an opening meditation, including a mention of JLC member Bill Barrett, who was absent due to the death of his mother-in-law, as well as the return of Chairman Wickersham after back surgery.

### **Roll Call of VSOs, Quorum Determination, and Introduction of Guests**

The roll was called, and 19 of the 25 Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) represented on the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) were recorded as being represented at the time of the roll call. A quorum was determined. Mr. Jim Icenhour, the Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS); Ms. Karla Boughey, Executive Director and representing the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF); and DVS Deputy Commissioner Steven Combs, representing Commissioner John L. Newby II, were recorded as present.

Chairman Wickersham asked the guests in attendance to introduce themselves. Their names and organizations are recorded above. Chairman Wickersham welcomed them to the meeting.

### **Approval of the Agenda, Approve December 19, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Wickersham asked for approval of the December 19, 2018 meeting minutes and agenda. Mr. Jim Cuthbertson made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Jim Barrett to approve the meeting agenda. The motion carried **unanimously**. (Agenda is *Attachment 1*)

Mr. Dan Boyer made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Robert Barnette to approve the minutes. The motion carried **unanimously**.

### **REPORTS**

#### **Update from the Adjutant General of Virginia**

Maj. General Tim Williams, Adjutant General of the Virginia National Guard, gave a brief update to the JLC members. He began by thanking them for their support during the legislative Session. He said that they were working on the policy initiatives that did not pass this year to reintroduce next year. The bill to raise state active duty pay for guardsmen will be referred to as the National Guard Emergency Response Pay instead of SAD pay. The conversation around “active duty” and pay was confusing to the legislators.

There will no longer be a tuition assistance bill – that will become a scholarship fund.

Mr. Bill Ashton asked about the pay and how it will be address. Gen. Williams said the focus is still on the lower ranks and to help them who need help the most. The National Guard is the Governor’s force and they will vote with their feet if they aren’t getting paid what they need or feel like they are being used. VNGA rep Kevin Hoffman added that the issue really came up during and after units served in the Virgin Islands after the hurricanes. Virginia guardsmen were serving alongside units from other states and finding out how much less they were being paid.

Mr. Robert Barnette, VaANGEA rep asked General Williams to discuss the plan to move the F-22 training from Tyndall AFB in Florida, which was obliterated last year during Hurricane Michael, and bring it up to Joint Base Langley – Eustis. The General said the question he’s been asked to help figure out is who will lead the training – the Guard or active duty. He stated that 24% of current instructor pilots of F-22s and maintenance is with the Virginia Air National Guard.

Mr. Wickersham asked about competitiveness with other states, and if there are incentives the JLC and the state should be focused on. General Williams said that Virginia talent is being

siphoned off to Maryland and other states. They are working on two things over the summer – tightening up language in legislation and communicating deliberately with the Governor. It is a small pool to draw on – only 26% of Americans can pass the military fitness test. And of that number only 9% want to serve.

### **Virginia Military Advisory Council**

Mr. Walt Mercer gave a detailed report from the Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC). He said at the previous meeting the focus was on military kids and education, including the interstate compacts that Virginia is a part of, and “purple star” schools which recognizes schools for excellence in supporting military kids.

He said that there was a presentation from Comfort Crew for Military Kids and a discussion on child care and federal funding. The School Liaison Officers spoke about their concerns as well.

One issue that came up that Mr. Mercer highlighted was that the cyber building at Langley could be in jeopardy with the \$10M in funding being possibly reallocated in the federal budget.

He ended by saying that the Roosevelt Group reported that they conducted a ranking of states on many “livability” factors including taxes and Virginia came in 3<sup>rd</sup> behind Illinois and Texas.

### **Board of Veterans Services**

Board of Veterans Services (BVS) Chairman Jim Icenhour gave the BVS report (*Attachment 2*).

### **Veterans Services Foundation**

Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) executive director gave the VSF report as Chairman Frank Finelli was unable to attend at the last minute. (*Attachment 3*) She stated that they had recently received a donation for \$88,000 from Dominion for V3 and a donation for \$150,000 from Smithfield for homelessness efforts, which will be a great help.

### **Virginia War Memorial Board**

In Ms. Marie Juliano’s absence, Deputy Commissioner Steve Combs gave a short report on the War Memorial Board and the on-going construction at the War Memorial. He said the target is still to have the grand opening ceremony on Patriot’s Day – Sept. 11, 2019 and encouraged everyone to come visit the War Memorial once the new expansion is open.

Mr. Dan Boyer asked if the DVS headquarters will still be moving out there. Mr. Combs said that while it was discussed at the very beginning of the project, headquarters staff will not be moving. The space at the Memorial will be dedicated solely to the Memorial and its mission. The DVS staff will remain in the Monroe building downtown.

### **Review of 2019 DVS Budget and Legislation**

Ms. Alford began by returning to an earlier agenda item that had been missed. There are three VSOs who have terms ending in 2019 and they will be contacted about renominating or nominating members. She said that if anyone else on the JLC needs to step off the council for any reason, this June is the cleanest, easiest time to do it for the Secretary of the

Commonwealth's office and to please let her know as soon as possible. She also said that it was Mr. Barrett's final meeting with JLC and therefore sad he wasn't able to attend. MOWW has a new person to nominate and Mr. Barrett intends to stay on as the alternate.

Ms. Alford gave a brief power point presentation of where DVS stood as of the end of Session in terms of budget and legislation. She reviewed budgetary numbers from the biennial budget and stated that the base budget had not been touched – only the amendments introduced by Governor Northam in December 2018. Of that package, DVS received \$250,000 for benefits staff, DMA did not receive anything and the Secretariat received some funding and language amendments regarding active duty instillations.

She reviewed the agency's three pieces of legislation (six bills with companions in both chambers for each) during the 2019 session. All six bills passed and were signed by the Governor.

SB1705 (McPike) / HB2744 (Fowler) was legislation that sunsets the Virginia War Memorial Board as of January 1, 2020.

SB1241 (Reeves) / HB2632 (Helsel) expanded the size of the Board of Veterans Services to 25 seats, with one new seat each for the senate, house and a citizen member. The citizen member must be a veteran. This will ensure continued robust support of the War Memorial with the Virginia War Memorial Board sunseting on January 1. This legislation also has a January 1, 2020 enactment date. Ms. Alford encouraged everyone to think of veterans they know who should apply for the new seat and encourage them to apply.

SB1265 (DeSteph) / HB2672 (Carr) was legislation to clarify the Virginia War Memorial's Code section with the expansion project finishing up this year. It clarified the role of the Shrine of Memory and other parts of the War Memorial.

Ms. Alford went quickly through the JLC priorities and said that Mr. David Sitler would go through them more thoroughly later in the meeting.

She did highlight two – JLC 2019-04 the personal property tax initiative. She is already receiving calls about this from veterans who have heard about it. She asked the JLC to help her with messaging and outreach that it is a 3-year process to amend the constitution and there are two more years to go.

She also highlighted JLC2019-06 that expands VMSDEP benefits. Del. Torian created two tiers to ensure the legislation would go through. The original group of recipients will still receive the stipend funds, the new group of qualifying spouses and dependents of those veterans 90% or greater disabled – but not due to combat – will not receive the stipend. But they will receive full free tuition to Virginia colleges and universities.

Deputy Commissioner Combs said that people are able to apply now even though the bill does not go into effect until July 1. It will take our VMSDEP staff time to process the additional applications and JLC members should encourage people to apply now. A flyer was distributed

after the meeting (*Attachment 4*).

Ms. Alford also highlighted some of the other military and veteran bills that were passed and signed by the Governor during the 2019 session.

The powerpoint presentation was distributed to the members via email after the meeting.

### **Presentation on the Governor's Challenge**

Ms. Alford introduced Ms. Brandi Jancaitis, Military and Veterans Affairs Manager for the Virginia Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS). She had been the first Virginia Veterans and Family Support Director at DVS and moved away but was back and now at DBHDS. She is working closely with Leslie Frazier, Assistant Secretary for Veterans and Defense Affairs, who was unable to attend the JLC meeting. Ms. Alford also mentioned that the JLC members had a separate packet for this presentation and the next to make it easy to pull out and share with their VSOs. (*Attachment 5*)

Ms. Jancaitis gave an update on the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans and Their Families, which is a federal program through SAMSA. Virginia is one of seven states that was selected and the group is using the Richmond Mayor's Challenge group as the foundation of their work. This includes a training "CSB101" and "VA101" so the behavioral health and veteran groups can learn about each other and educate each other on what they do.

She said that both Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs Carlos Hopkins and Secretary of Health and Human Resources Dan Carey are leading the challenge. Sec. Carey is an Air Force veteran. The mental health director for the DC VAMC is also part of the Governor's Challenge.

Mr. Flanagan asked if the initiative includes opioids. Ms. Jancaitis said yes but it is hard to track if the deaths are accidental or purposeful, suicidal overdoses. The data does not separate them out. (copy of the card is part of *Attachment 5*)

Ms. Jancaitis stated that from the end of May through the end of August she will be traveling around Virginia to regional military culture and suicide prevention summits. She will send the information to Ms. Alford for distribution to the JLC – all members will be invited to attend if they live near an event.

Mr. Wozniak asked if the cards each JLC member received could be handed out to active duty members? Ms. Jancaitis said yes, but those people will be routed back to DOD resources.

She said that when you can get buy-in from the person who you are trying to help and needs help then it is very effective – and the cards and other materials can be a tool to use. She said the important thing is to keep following up with the person and make sure they are getting long-term care.

Mr. Ashton asked if there is data on non-eligible veterans who have tried to get help? Ms. Jancaitis said no they do not have access to that data – only on those who are eligible. That said,

the VA rule is now non-eligible veterans who present themselves at a VAMC requesting help can receive it for up to five years post-service for mental health access point service, where it has been only one year.

The powerpoint presentation was distributed to the members via email after the meeting.

### **Presentation on Suicide Prevention**

After Ms. Jancaitis finished her presentation there was a Suicide Prevention presentation by Mr. John Cooper, AMVETS rep to the JLC. Mr. Cooper has been giving this presentation to groups for 15 years. It is a non-clinical presentation that covered the basics of how to help someone who may be suicidal. At the end of the presentation was a slide “JLC Action Points.”

The JLC members came up with 3 action points to act on as a result of the two presentations:

1. Make a commitment to pass out the cards from the Governor’s challenge
2. Put the information about the Governor’s Challenge and presentation on suicide prevention in VSO newsletters
3. JLC will send a formal letter through the Chairman to the Governor supporting the Challenge and committing to support its’ efforts.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Cooper offered to travel and give the presentation to any of the VSOs. The powerpoint presentation was distributed to the members via the packet and by email after the meeting. (*Attachment 5*)

The Chair called for a 10 minute break.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Report of the Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee**

Mr. Tom Wozniak, Chair of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee reported that he and his team – Mr. Ace Taylor and Ms. Fallon Martin – had no amendments to either the JLC constitution or by-laws. None were offered from the floor.

#### **JLC at the General Assembly 2019: Reviewing Position Papers & Introduction of Potential Policy Positions for 2020**

Mr. Sitler reviewed the 2019 initiatives (*Attachment 6*) that did not pass and asked for members to consider which should be reviewed and resubmitted or dropped. He gave a deadline of June for papers to be turned in for consideration for 2020.

Mr. Sitler mentioned the handout “policy initiatives for JLC to consider for 2020 session” that was in everyone’s packets. (*Attachment 7*) He said it was a good list, and he was interested in researching what could be done to assist the Governor’s Broadband challenge moving forward since they received some, but not all, of the funding they requested.

Ms. Alford asked if Reserve Officers Association was requesting sponsorship of that policy and he was going to investigate? He said yes.

Mr. Ashton asked how many VSOs had signed on. Ms. Alford said she thought it was four, but was not sure off the top of her head. Mr. Ashton asked if the Broadband challenge staff could come present to the JLC. Ms. Alford said she would reach out to them and send the invitation, with the Chair's permission. Chairman Wickersham agreed that was a good idea.

Ms. Alford stated that AUSA had requested to be the sponsor of the Microloan for Veterans Program policy initiative.

Ms. Alford gave a brief update of push-back during session and questions from legislators on finding funding solutions and not just providing policy papers that were unfunded mandates. She said that the JLC needs to put more research into funding solutions or focusing on initiatives that do not have a large fiscal impact.

She stated that this year no committee chair asked if a veterans bill was a JLC priority and there was less support than in previous years. The JLC members will have to work to educate new members and regain trust of long-term legislators.

Chairman Wickersham stated that the JLC needs to look at things more professionally, and have papers that are well thought out and logical. He said he was including his VSO and their 2019 paper in those comments.

Mr. Steve Herbert asked if there is research on past legislation for credentials and training programs for TSMs, and what can be done around getting TSMs into programs and getting the word out about credentialing programs.

Ms. Alford said the General Assembly has done a good deal around professional licensure, but she was not sure about credentialing – although the Del. Thomas bill this year to fix some of the issues with CDL certification was a good step and the JLC should be bringing more things like that to the table.

Mr. Flanagan asked if the JLC had partnered with the Virginia Chamber in the past? Ms. Alford and Deputy Commissioner Combs said that DVS partners with the Chamber on various events, such as the Hire Vets Now initiative. The JLC has a history of partnering with various groups on policy initiatives – such as the veteran treatment docket policy initiative several years ago and it would be a good idea to return to building coalitions.

Mr. Cooper asked about a policy initiative of the government having a goal of a certain percentage of veterans as new hires.

Mr. Ashton said that he would be resubmitting his policy initiative for exempting military retiree pay.

Ms. Alford said that while she can only advise, she would advise against that. All state agencies are supposed to be V3 certified and hire veterans, but some are still working on certification and putting percentages – even as aspirational goals – could backfire. The better place for percentage goals would be in procurement as contractors for state government. She said she and Chris



Carlton, the Veteran Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Coordinator will have a meeting with the Dept. of Small Business and Supplier Diversity (SBSD) on Friday about policy ideas and she can share any relevant information after that.

She reminded everyone to keep looking at the Work Plan. The draft policy papers need to be turned in to the legislative chair and herself by the beginning of June so they can be distributed with the agenda email 30 days before the July 24 meeting. Everyone should be working with their VSOs to “bubble up” ideas from the VSOs to the JLC for consideration and to share the potential policy list in their packet, as these are good ideas that the General Assembly is already familiar with and could pass with the right support and effort.

### **Call for a new Legislative Chair**

Chairman Wickersham put out the call for a new legislative chair since John Clickener, who had been appointed in December stepped down from the JLC in January.

Ms. Alford added that Mr. Sitler had graciously stepped back into that role but even if he remains chair for the year, he will need help – the committee needs to be three people and his assistant, Rich Anderson, is currently running for political office and therefore limited in what he can do to assist. Those interested should let the Chairman know.

Deputy Commissioner Combs also said that it was important for there to be at least three members of the committee to support the chair and work through all the initiatives.

### **Candidates for Chair and Vice Chair**

Mr. Dan Boyer, chair of the nominations committee stated he had received two nominations. One for each office.

Mr. Frank G. Wickersham, III, JLC Chairman, was re-nominated for Chairman.

Mr. Bill Ashton nominated himself for the office of Vice Chair.

Mr. Boyer accepted their nominations and stated that any other nominations needed to be sent to him as soon as possible. The list of candidates will be distributed 30 days before the next meeting.

### **Other New Business and Open Discussion**

Chairman Wickersham pointed out the flyer everyone had been given that Mission BBQ will be celebrating Armed Forces week in May and to please share the information (*Attachment 8*).

Mr. Kevin Hoffman thanked everyone for participating in the Virginia National Guard reception on January 16 and said it went very well and they would like to extend the offer to co-host again next January. He said that if any VSO would like to help defray the costs of the reception that would be gladly accepted and to please let him know as soon as possible.

### **Public Comment**

There were two individuals seeking to make public comment. Ms. Faye Early, who is assisting with the 2019 Virginia Women Veterans Summit gave an update and asked people to sign up and attend this year's summit in Hampton, VA on May 16-17.

Ms. Angela McConnell introduced herself and her organization – NOVA Vets to the group. NOVA Vets assists veterans with healthcare resources and training providers on working with veterans. She had a handout that was passed out to the JLC members (*Attachment 9*).

General Walt Mercer thanked everyone for coming to the Virginia National Guard headquarters for the meeting and said that Mr. Al Barnes, the VNG Historian would give a tour of the building to anyone who was interested immediately upon adjournment of the meeting.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

**ATTACHMENT 1**  
**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations**  
**Department of Military Affairs (Virginia National Guard) Headquarters**  
8000 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Bldg. 430, Richmond, VA 23297

**April 17, 2019**  
**10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**  
**REVISED AGENDA**

- I. Opening & Pledge of Allegiance – *Frank Wickersham, JLC Chairman* (10:00 – 10:05)
- II. Opening Reflections, *Denice Williams, JLC Chaplain* (10:05 – 10:10)
- III. Roll call of VSOs, quorum determination, reminder regarding appointments & re-appointments – *Frank Wickersham, JLC Chairman* (10:10 – 10:15)
- IV. Introduction of guests – *Frank Wickersham, JLC Chairman* (10:15 – 10:20)
- V. Approve Agenda & December 19 Meeting Minutes – *Frank Wickersham, JLC Chairman* (10:20 – 10:25)
- VI. Welcome by General Williams and report on the Virginia National Guard (10:25 – 10:45)
- VII. Reports (10:45 – 11:00)
  - a. Board of Veterans Services (BVS) – *Jim Icenhour, BVS Chairman*
  - b. Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) – *Frank Finelli, VSF Chairman*
  - c. Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC), *Bill Barrett*
  - d. Virginia War Memorial Board, *Marie Juliano*
- VIII. Review of 2019 DVS budget and legislation – *Carrie Ann Alford, Policy Director* (11:00 – 11:20)
- IX. Report on [Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families](#) – *Brandi Jancaitis, Military and Veterans Affairs Manager, DBHDS* (11:20 – 11:40); and Efforts the JLC can Undertake to Support – *John Cooper, AMVETS Rep to the JLC* (11:40 – 11:50)
- X. BREAK (11:50 – 12:00)
- XI. New Business (12:00 – 12:50)
  - a. Report of the Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee, *Tom Wozinak* (5 min)
  - b. JLC at the General Assembly 2019: Review Position Papers – *David Sitler and Rich Anderson, JLC Legislative Officers* (15 minutes)
  - c. Call for potential policy positions for 2020 – *David Sitler and Rich Anderson, JLC Legislative Officers* (10 minutes)
  - d. Call for a new JLC Legislative Chair, *Frank Wickersham, JLC Chairman*
  - e. Candidates for Chair and Vice Chair may announce their intention to run – *Dan Boyer, Nominations Chair* (5 minutes)
  - f. Other New Business and Open Discussion – *Frank Wickersham, JLC Chairman* (15 minutes)
- XII. Public comment period – *Frank Wickersham, JLC Chairman* (12:50 – 12:55)
- XIII. Closing remarks – *Frank Wickersham, JLC Chairman* (12:55 – 1:00)
- XIV. Adjourn (1:00)  
*A tour of the new DMA HQ will be offered upon the conclusion of the meeting*

## **ATTACHMENT 2**

### **REPORT TO THE JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (JLC)**

**April 16, 2019**

*James O. Icenhour, Jr.,  
Chairman*

*Michael Dick,  
Vice Chairman*

*Victor Angry*

*Carl Bedell*

*Carl Bess*

*Paige Cherry*

*Delegate Gordon Helsel*

*Susan B. Hippen*

*Nick Kesler*

*M. Lyla Kohistany*

*Tammi Lambert*

*John Lesinski*

*Senator Mamie Locke*

*Delegate Jason Miyares*

*Delegate Kathleen  
Murphy*

*Senator Bryce Reeves*

*Efrain "Frank" Reyes*

*Julie Waters*

*Frank Wickersham, III  
Chairman, Joint  
Leadership Council of  
Veterans Service  
Organizations*

*Frank Finelli,  
Chairman, Veterans  
Services Foundation*

*John L. Newby II,  
Commissioner of  
Veterans Services*

The Board of Veterans Services (BVS) has not met since the last JLC meeting. BVS met last on November 15, 2018 at the DVS Office in Henrico.

At our November meeting we had a very informative presentation by Mr. Alan Garratt, Executive Director of the FOIA Council, Commissioner John Newby gave an update on construction projects, and Carrie Ann Alford, DVS Director of Policy & Planning gave an update on the upcoming 2019 session, including the Governor's introduced budget and DVS legislation.

Two pieces of DVS legislation that affect the BVS and have been signed by the Governor, will add three seats to BVS as of January 1, 2020 as well as the Chairman of the War Memorial Foundation Board as ex officio. Additionally, on January 1, 2020 the Virginia War Memorial Board will sunset and BVS will assume all duties of support to the Virginia War Memorial.

We received initial reports from our three new working groups: Benefits, Carl Bedell, Chair; Education, Mike Dick, Chair; and Veterans and the Arts, Julie Waters, Chair. All three groups have one year to conduct their research and report their findings and recommendations. They will all give another report at our upcoming May meeting.

The BVS consists of twenty-two members: fourteen citizen members, five legislators, and three *ex officio* members. Board members are in regular contact with the Department of Veterans Services to provide policy input on key operational issues.

Our next meeting will be at the Dept. of Military Affairs (Virginia National Guard) Headquarters on Thursday, May 2 at 10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Icenhour  
Chairman

**ATTACHMENT 3**  
**VIRGINIA VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION REPORT**  
**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations**  
**April 16, 2019**

The Veterans Services Foundation Board of Trustees has held one Board meeting since the last JLC meeting on December 19, 2018. The Veterans Services Foundation met on March 28, 2019 at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Virginia. The Development and Finance Committees also met on the same date and at the same location. The Development Committee hosted a workgroup meeting on January 15, 2019 at the DVS Headquarters in Richmond and the Procedures and Policies met on March 13, 2019 in Richmond.

The Development Committee had the opportunity to meet with the Virginia Veterans and Family Support (VVFS) Director, Carol Berg and her staff during the work group session in January. With fundraising as the top priority for the Foundation, the need to collaborate and communicate with Department of Veterans Services (DVS) and various program staff are important. Having the opportunity for the committee members to meet with the VVFS staff was a very valuable experience. The VVFS staff is a highly dedicated and passionate team who was excited to share information about the great work that is taking place in their respective Regions for the benefit of our Virginia Veterans. Their participation was greatly appreciated.

The Procedures and Policies Committee met in Richmond two weeks prior to the Board meeting. The committee members received an update on the progress of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Foundation and DVS. The MOU has not been finalized but everyone remains hopeful an agreement will be reached soon. Work on revising the Foundation's by-laws continues along with the discussion of the Foundation's policies.

All members of the board continue to work on the proposed fundraising plan implemented by the Development Committee. Board members received additional marketing materials at the March 28, 2019 meeting to help with outreach. The need to enhance the Foundation's Social Media presence was discussed. All were encouraged to "like" the Foundation's page on Facebook.

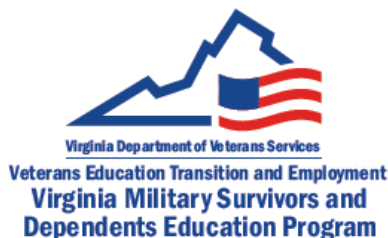
The Foundation closed the second quarter of FY19 with a total of \$231,909 in donations and expenditures at \$374,826. The Foundation will need to collaborate with DVS to identify key donor relationships in regions across the Commonwealth to help increase revenue to sustain the rate of expenses over time.

The Smithfield donation for \$150,000 to the VVFS Homeless Veteran Fund along with the PGA donation of \$88,827 from the 2018 Dominion Energy Charity Classic benefitting V3 were received on April 2nd. These donations bring our FY19 revenue total to approximately \$580,000. Dominion Energy has also confirmed their support for the 2019 Charity Classic scheduled for October 17-19 at the Country Club of Virginia in Richmond.

The next Veterans Services Foundation Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 13, 2019. Location TBA.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Frank Finelli  
Chairman  
Veterans Services Foundation

## ATTACHMENT 4



# Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP) New Program Benefits Effective July 1, 2019

## OVERVIEW

VMSDEP is a Commonwealth of Virginia program which provides education benefits to spouses and children of military service members killed, missing in action, taken prisoner, or who became totally and permanently disabled or at least 90 percent permanently disabled as a result of military service. Military service includes service in the United States Armed Forces, United States Armed Forces Reserves, or the Virginia National Guard.

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) is responsible for managing the program and collaborates with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and Virginia's public colleges and universities to assist survivors and dependents of qualified Veterans in attaining their educational goals.

## TIER 1 ELIGIBILITY

The eligible student must be: Admitted to a public college or university in Virginia; and the spouse, or the child between the ages of 16 and 29, of a qualifying Veteran.

A qualified Veteran is one who: Is rated totally and permanently disabled or at least 90% permanently disabled due to military service and meets the domiciliary requirement as defined in the Code of Virginia § 23.1-608.

## TIER 2 ELIGIBILITY

The eligible student must be: Admitted to a public college or university in Virginia; and the spouse or the child between the ages of 16 and 29 of a qualifying Veteran or military service member.

A qualified Service Member or Veteran is one who: Was killed, became missing in action, taken prisoner of war, or is rated totally and permanently disabled or at least 90% permanently disabled due to direct involvement in covered military combat (includes military operation against terrorism; a peacekeeping mission; a terrorist act; or any armed conflict) and meets the domiciliary requirement as defined in the Code of Virginia § 23.1-608.

## TUITION BENEFITS (TIER 1 & TIER 2)

Eligible students, as confirmed by DVS, are guaranteed waiver of all tuition and mandatory fees for eight semesters at a Virginia public college or university and Eastern Virginia Medical School.

## STIPEND (TIER 2 ONLY)

Eligible students may receive a stipend to offset educational expenses such as room, board, books, and supplies. SCHEV works with DVS and the public colleges and universities in disbursing funds. The amount of the stipend is determined annually by SCHEV and is dependent on the student's enrollment status; the number of participating students; and the available funding.

## APPLY

Apply online at [www.dvs.virginia.gov](http://www.dvs.virginia.gov).

## CONTACT

Department of Veterans Services/VMSDEP  
101 North 14th Street, 17th Floor  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
Phone: (804) 225-2083  
Email: [VMSDEP@dvs.virginia.gov](mailto:VMSDEP@dvs.virginia.gov)

**Apply Online at [www.dvs.virginia.gov](http://www.dvs.virginia.gov)**

**ATTACHMENT 5**

***Commonwealth of Virginia***  
***Office of Governor Ralph S. Northam***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: January 18, 2019

**Office of the Governor**

Contact: Alena Yarmosky

Email: [Alena.Yarmosky@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:Alena.Yarmosky@governor.virginia.gov)

**Virginia Joins Governor's Challenge to Prevent  
Suicide Among Veterans, Service Members, and  
Their Families**

**RICHMOND**—Governor Ralph Northam today announced that Virginia was selected as one of seven states to participate in the inaugural [Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide](#) among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF). The challenge is hosted by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The other six states participating in the Governor's Challenge are Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, New Hampshire, and Texas.

The states in the Governor's Challenge will develop strategies and best practices to help implement the VA's [National Strategy for the Prevention of Veteran Suicide](#), which provides a framework for using a comprehensive public health approach to address the growing public health challenge among the veteran population.

"As an Army veteran, physician, and governor of this great Commonwealth, I am deeply focused on the issues of mental health and suicide within our veteran population," **said Governor Northam**. "Virginia has long been a leader in ensuring that our veterans, service members, and their families are cared for, and we look forward to this opportunity to develop and expand our ongoing efforts to reduce and prevent suicide."

The Governor's Challenge is modeled after the Mayor's Challenge to eliminate suicide among the SMVF population that began last year. Led by Mayor Levar Stoney and the Richmond Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA), the City of Richmond was one of eight cities to participate in that challenge.

"Virginia has a history of success with Mayor's and Governor's Challenges issued by the VA," **said Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs Carlos Hopkins**. "In 2015 we



became the first state in the Nation to functionally end veterans homelessness, and I am confident that we will again effectively collaborate and pull together resources to best serve this population.”

“From 2003 to 2016, over 3,000 veterans died by suicide in Virginia, which is nearly thirty percent of the suicides statewide in that time frame,” **said Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Resources Daniel Carey, M.D.** “We must tackle this issue, and we will with commitment from our health partners and various state agencies.”

The Virginia Governor’s Challenge team is co-chaired by Secretary Carlos Hopkins and Secretary Daniel Carey. The team roster consists of federal agencies including the VA Veterans Health Administration and the Department of Defense along with state agencies, including the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, Virginia National Guard, Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Virginia Department of Health, Virginia Department of Social Services, Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services, and Virginia State Police; and other health partners including RBHA and the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association.

[Full Release](#)





## **SAMHSA ★ SMVF TA CENTER**

Service Members, Veterans, and their  
Families Technical Assistance Center

### **Preventing Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families: A National Strategy Initiative**

#### **Fact Sheet**

#### **Implementing the National Strategy for the Prevention of Veteran Suicide**

There is a new call to action for state and local communities to implement the [2018-2028 National Strategy for the Prevention of Veteran Suicide](#). The aim of the National Strategy is to prevent suicide among at-risk Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) using a comprehensive public health approach. The National Strategy provides a framework for identifying priorities, organizing efforts, and contributing to a national focus on Veteran suicide prevention. This initiative advances the National Strategy by facilitating state-wide policy to practice implementation plans. It is expected that these plans will serve as instruments of change, providing a replicable best-practice public health model that demonstrates meaningful results in suicide prevention.

#### **Partnering to Achieve Success: From Mayors to Governors**

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Health Administration (VHA) has teamed up with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to bring this initiative forward from a local community level to a broader state-wide effort. Building on the success of the Mayor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide among SMVF, state-level policy makers will partner with local leaders to implement a comprehensive plan informed by lessons learned and evidenced-based best practices.

#### **Key Objectives**

- Convene an interagency military and civilian team of leaders from your state to develop an implementation plan that will advance the National Strategy to prevent suicide among SMVF
- Implement promising, best, and evidence-based practices to prevent and reduce suicide
- Engage with city, county, and local communities to enhance and align local and state-wide prevention efforts
- Acquire a deeper familiarity with the issues surrounding suicide prevention for SMVF
- Increase knowledge about the challenges and lessons learned in implementing strategies by utilizing state-to-state and community-to-community sharing

- Define, measure, and report progress, including assignments, deadlines, measurable outcomes, and lessons learned

### The Process

Figure 1 outlines the major components of the initiative. The purpose and timeframe for each phase is described in detail below.



Figure 1: Initiative Process

### Phase 1: State Preparation

#### **Orientation Meeting**

**Purpose:** Meet with team leader appointed by the governor to discuss the overall process, team formation, logistics, and next steps.

**Timeframe:** 1-hour conference call during the week of November 5-9, 2018

#### **Pre-site Visit**

**Purpose:** Conduct an environmental scan of suicide prevention efforts, analyze strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, identify gaps and priorities, and begin strategic action planning.

**Timeframe:** 1.5 day site visit in your state during the weeks of December 12-19, 2018

### ***Virtual Preparation Session***

**Purpose:** Come together with other participating states to prepare for the Policy Academy in D.C. Gather critical data and receive technical assistance on evaluating and reporting outcomes.

**Timeframe:** 90 minute virtual session during the week of January 16-18, 2019

## **Phase 2: State Planning**

### ***Policy Academy***

**Purpose:** Bring forward changes to be implemented at a state policy-level through intensive, professionally facilitated sessions, plenary panels, breakouts with experts, and collaboration with other participating states.

**Timeframe:** 2.5 day Academy on February 6-8, 2019 in Washington, D.C.

### ***Follow-up Site Visit***

**Purpose:** Receive follow-up technical assistance to help implement your plan.

**Timeframe:** 1.5 day site visit in your state during the weeks of March 11-22, 2019

## **Phase 3: Engaging Communities**

### ***Virtual Preparation Session with States and Communities***

**Purpose:** Bring states and their selected communities together to prepare for the Implementation Academy in D.C. Discuss lessons learned, best and promising practices, and align efforts.

**Timeframe:** 90 minute virtual session during the week of April 8-12, 2019

### ***Implementation Academy***

**Purpose:** Integrate local and statewide implementation of suicide prevention best practices through intensive, professionally facilitated sessions, plenary panels, breakouts with experts, and collaboration with other participating states, cities, and local communities.

**Timeframe:** 2.5 day Academy on May 15-17, 2019 in Washington, D.C.

## **Phase 4: Follow-up and Reporting**

### ***Follow-up Site Visit with Communities***

**Purpose:** Receive follow-up technical assistance to help implement your integrated state and community plan.

**Timeframe:** 1.5 day site visit in your state during the weeks of June 24-July 12, 2019

### ***Virtual Technical Assistance As Needed***

**Purpose:** Opportunities for additional targeted technical assistance via phone or virtual platform to help with implementation.

**Timeframe:** July-August 2019

### ***Progress Reporting***

**Purpose:** Quarterly reports that touch on key accomplishments, lessons learned, and outcome measures.

**Timeframe:** First progress report is due on May 8, 2019 (3 months after the Policy Academy).  
The second progress report is due on August 17, 2019 (3 months after the Implementation Academy)

For more information, contact:  
Angela Wright, Assistant Director  
SAMHSA's SMVF TA Center  
Phone: 518-439-7415, ext. 5258  
Email: [awright@prainc.com](mailto:awright@prainc.com)

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## SUICIDE Prevention

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- The Statistics OVERALL
  - From 2003-2016 3,000+ Veterans in Virginia died by Suicide
  - Every suicide event leaves behind at least six survivors
  - Veterans at most risk are between 18 and 29
    - They are usually single
    - Recently separated, divorced, or widowed
    - Have trouble with one or more of the following:
      - Relationships
      - Substance abuse
      - Finances
      - Legal issues

---

## Myths, Facts and Warning Signs

- Knowing the facts is critical to taking action and essential to saving lives
  - Myth: Suicide usually happens with no warning.
  - Fact: Eight out of ten people who kill themselves give some sort of warning or clue to others, even if it is something subtle.
  - Myth: Someone who talks a lot about suicide is just trying to get attention.
  - Fact: More than 70% of people who kill themselves have previously threatened to do so or actually attempted to do so.
  - Myth: People who attempt suicide once are unlikely to try it again.
  - Fact: 80% of people who die from suicide have made at least one other attempt already.
  - Myth: Someone who survives a suicide attempt is obviously not serious about it.
  - Fact: Any suicide attempt should be treated as though the person intended to die, and not simply dismissed as an attention-getting device.
  - Myth: If you mention suicide to someone who seems depressed, you are just planting the idea in her or his mind.
  - Fact: Discussing it openly will help and not hurt.

## Warning signs of suicide

- A) Preoccupation with death or dying.
  - B) Drastic changes in behavior or personality.
  - C) A recent severe loss or threat of a loss. (Combat loss or observing death)
  - D) Unexpected preparations for death such as making out a will.
  - E) Giving away prized possessions.
  - F) A previous suicide attempt.
  - G) Loss of interest in personal appearance.
  - H) Sense of hopelessness about the future.
  - I) Increased use or abuse of alcohol.
  - J) Uncharacteristic impulsiveness, recklessness, or risk taking.
- 

## How to Help Someone that is Suicidal

Get educated in the warning signs and symptoms of suicide

1. Get involved and become available, show interest and support
  2. Ask directly if they are suicidal
  3. Talk openly and freely about suicide
  4. Be willing to listen without judgement
  5. Allow for true expression of feelings
  6. Do not debate right or wrongs of suicide
  7. Do not lecture on the value of life
  8. Do not dare them to do it
  9. Do not ask "why", that could encourage defensiveness
  10. Do not act shocked
  11. Do not swear to secrecy
  12. Offer empathy, not sympathy
  13. Offer hope that alternatives are available
-

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- Suicide is not the answer to life's problems.
    - The most important role you play is to become educated in the signs and symptoms.
  - Seek help
  - Take action to save this persons life

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## How JLC and Member VSOs Can Help

- Action Point 1

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- Action Point 2

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- Action Point 3

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## ATTACHMENT 6

### Status of JLC 2019 Initiatives – as of RECONVENED SESSION – April 3, 2019

INITIATIVE	RECOMMENDATION	STATUS
<b>JLC 2019-01</b> <i>Increased State Active Duty (SAD) Pay</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly appropriate \$50,000 to ensure that all Virginia National Guardsmen are paid at least at the E6 rate.	<b>Budget Amendment:</b> <del>416</del> <del>#2h, 416 #3h, 416 #1s –</del> <del>\$50,000</del>  <b>Legislation:</b>  HB1968 (Reid): <i>2/5: Left in Appropriations</i> HB2626 (Ayala) & HB2788 (Thomas): <i>2/5: Left in Appropriations</i>  SB1246 (Reeves): <i>2/18: Left in Appropriations</i>
<b>JLC 2019-02</b> <i>Income Tax Subtraction for Certain Low-Income 100% Disabled Veterans</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly approve an individual income tax subtraction for 100% service-connected disabled veterans with a federally adjusted gross income, not exceeding 150% of the federal poverty level for a four-person household, who have not already claimed another exemption.	<b>Budget Amendment:</b> None  <b>Legislation:</b> HB1756 (Miyares): <i>2/5: Left in Appropriations (did not cross over)</i>
<b>JLC 2019-03</b> <i>Electronic Return of Voted Ballots by Overseas Military</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly enact legislation and provide budget support of a pilot program at the Virginia State Board of Elections for \$100,000 and funding for one FTE, for a limited pilot program for the electronic return of absentee ballots by Virginia's deployed military service members.	<b>Budget Amendment:</b> <del>83</del> <del>#6h \$282,600</del> (Landes)  <b>Legislation:</b> HJ670 (Landes): <i>1/29: Failed to Report (3-3) (did not cross over)</i> SJ291 (DeSteph): <i>2/1: PBI (did not cross over)</i>
<b>JLC 2019-04</b> <i>Personal Property Tax Relief for Certain Disabled Veterans</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly approve legislation creating a standardized, statewide personal property tax exemption for one vehicle for 100% service-connected, total and permanent disabled veterans. <b><i>The corresponding legislation is a constitutional amendment – a 3 year process</i></b>	<b>Budget Amendment:</b> N/A  <b>Legislation:</b> HJ676 (Filler-Corn): <i>3/7: Signed by Speaker; 3/9: Signed by President</i> SJ278 (Reeves): <i>3/7: Signed by Speaker; 3/9: Signed by President</i>
<b>JLC 2019-05</b> <i>Free Tuition for Virginia National Guardsmen</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly provide budget support of approximately a \$1 million increase in the annual State Tuition Assistance program for a pilot program to cover the estimated 3.5% of Guardsmen seeking a degree who are not currently completely covered by federal and state tuition assistance.	<b>Budget Amendment:</b> In GOV introduced amendments – <b>Senate Removed; House Retained; Conference Removed</b>  <b>Legislation:</b> SB1412 (Mason): <i>2/19: Left in Appropriations</i> HB2455 (Simon): <i>2/5: Left in Appropriations</i>
<b>JLC 2019-06</b> <i>Removing Combat</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly remove the requirement that a veteran's disability rating be combat	<b>Budget Amendment:</b> <del>44</del> <del>#5s \$1.2M in FY19 &amp;</del>

<p><i>Requirement for VMSDEP</i></p>	<p>related. Instead, a permanent service-connected disability rating of at least 90%, plus satisfaction of the other requirements currently in the Code, would qualify a veteran's spouse or child for VMSDEP benefits.</p>	<p><del>\$2.7M in FY20 (McPike)</del></p> <p><b>Legislation:</b>  HB2685 (Torian): 3/18:  <i>Signed by Governor</i>  SB1173 (McPike): 3/8:  <i>Signed by Governor</i>  (SB1665 (Stuart): <i>Rolled into SB1173</i>)</p>
<p><b>JLC 2019-07</b>  <i>Phased-in System for Partial State Tax Exemption for Military Retirement Income</i></p>	<p>That the Governor and General Assembly support changes to the current Virginia tax laws for a phased in system to reduce state tax on military retirement income up to \$40,000.</p>	<p><b>Budget Amendment:</b>  <b>None</b>  <b>Legislation: None</b></p> <p>HJ 674 DVS &amp; TAX:  feasibility of exempting military retirement income from taxation, report (Torian); 2/4: <i>Agreed to by House (98-0); 2/20: Agreed to by Senate (voice vote)</i></p> <p><i>DVS &amp; TAX had their first meeting on March 26</i></p>



## ATTACHMENT 7

<b>POLICY INITATIVES FOR JLC TO CONSIDER for 2020 SESSION</b>		
W&M MPP Students Fall 2018 project (Presented to JLC in Dec. 2018)	<b>The Microloans for Veterans Program (MVP)</b> will incentivize veterans to complete financial education and business planning classes with lower interest rates (1-2% below market rate) and extended payback periods. MVP will work with VSBFA to provide microloans with the opportunity to apply for larger loans to expand their business in the future. Tier 1: Loan amounts up to \$10,000, Requirements: Honorably discharged, minimum credit credentials; Tier 2: Loan amounts greater than \$10,000 and up to \$50,000, Requirements: In business for at least one year, eligible after completing Tier 1 in good standing and Tier 2 loans be administered through participating V3 banks; and VDVS partner with the Virginia Community College System to coordinate educational programs.	<b>AUSA requested to be sponsor</b>
Assisting National Guard and Reserves	<b>Increase the number of days from 15 to 30 that Guard and Reserves in state employ can take without penalty</b> , to provide incentives for highly trained Guardsmen and Reserves to work for the Commonwealth of Virginia and provide a benefit that will help ensure they remain long-term employees while retaining vacation benefits other state employees take for granted. this would be a huge help to the Reserves. Even with the bump up to 30 days before dipping into vacation days, she may still have to use some vacation days for Reserves training, but this would be a huge help.	
Assisting National Guard and Reserves/ Veterans who are state employees	<b>Replicate federal leave share program</b> to provide incentives for highly trained Veterans Guardsmen and Reserves to work for the Commonwealth of Virginia by providing a benefit that federal employees can take advantage of to aid in leave time management. Federal employees are allow to donate their leave time to any other federal employee, regardless of agency or location. Similar to the idea in HB1824 - veterans who are state employees in need of additional time for medical appointments, surgeries, mental health appointments, etc., could have time donated by other state employees. The Commonwealth of Virginia should allow state employees who do not use all their annual leave to donate it to Veterans, Guardsmen and Reservists.	
Support for the Governor's Broadband initiative	Encourage Republican and Democratic leaders in Virginia's General Assembly to continue to fund broadband access through the Governor's Commonwealth Connect program. Without a proper broadband connection, these communities can't start or run a modern business, access telemedicine, take an online class, digitally transform their farm or research a school project online. We believe this is an urgent national problem that can and must be solved. We hope to partner with lawmakers in Richmond to solve it in Virginia. The time is right to move from deliberation to decisions, and from consideration to connectivity.	<b>ROA requested to be sponsor</b>
<a href="#"><u>HB 1824 Reid Sick leave for state employees; certain disabled veterans.</u></a>	<b>Sick leave for state employees; certain disabled veterans.</b> Provides an additional 96 hours of sick leave to disabled veterans, defined in the bill as veterans with a disability rating by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs of at least 60 percent, available during the 12 months following such veteran's start or return to state employment after active duty or following a disability rating decision from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, whichever is later. The bill provides that such additional sick leave shall be used only for the purpose of undergoing medical treatment for the service-related disability and would be provided only to those disabled veterans whose disability occurred on or after January 1, 2016. <b>Appropriations committee added budget language (7-0) Language entered as 81 #2h for DVS and DHRM to study issue and bring recommendations in 2020.</b>	

<a href="#"><u>HB 2113 Murphy Public institutions of higher education; veterans; withdrawal; tuition refund.</u></a>	<p><b>Public institutions of higher education; veterans; withdrawal; tuition refund.</b> Requires each public institution of higher education to provide a refund of the tuition and mandatory fees paid by any veteran student for any course from which he is forced to withdraw, for the first time, due to a medical condition during a semester, as certified in writing to the institution by a physician licensed to practice medicine who treated the veteran student for such medical condition. <b>Senate Finance PBI'ed the bill and requested Del. Murphy work with the universities to see if they can do this administratively without legislation...and if not, bring the bill back in 2020. There is at least one university concerned that it can't be done without legislation.</b></p>	
<a href="#"><u>HB 2608 Freitas Individual and corporate income tax credit; employers of National Guard members.</u></a>	<p><b>Individual and corporate income tax credit; employers of National Guard members and self-employed National Guard members.</b> Provides for taxable years 2019 through 2023 a nonrefundable tax credit against individual and corporate income taxes for (i) wages paid by an employer to an employee who is a Virginia National Guard member or (ii) income of a self-employed National Guard member attributable to his business. The amount of the credit shall be 25 percent if such member was in a military pay status for 65 days or more during such taxable year or 15 percent if such member was in a military pay status for 45 days or more during such taxable year. The credit shall not be allowed if such member was in a military pay status for less than 45 days during such taxable year. The bill allows a taxpayer to carry unused credits over for up to five taxable years. <b>Left in Appropriations</b></p>	
<a href="#"><u>HB 2669 Roem Health insurance; coverage for prosthetic devices.</u></a>	<p><b>Health insurance; coverage for prosthetic devices.</b> Requires health insurers, corporations providing health care coverage subscription contracts, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for prosthetic devices, including myoelectric, biomechanical, or microprocessor-controlled prosthetic devices that have a Medicare code. The measure repeals the existing requirement that coverage for prosthetic devices be offered and made available. The measure applies to policies, contracts, and plans delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed on or after January 1, 2020, or at any time thereafter when any term of the policy, contract, or plan is changed or any premium adjustment is made. <b>Left in Commerce &amp; Labor.</b></p>	
<a href="#"><u>SB771 Surovell Absentee voting; counting military and overseas absentee ballots received after close of polls.</u></a>	<p><b>Absentee voting; counting military and overseas absentee ballots received after close of polls on election day.</b> Provides that absentee ballots cast by military and overseas absentee voters that are (i) received after the close of the polls on any election day but before 5:00 p.m. on the second business day before the State Board meets to ascertain the results of the election and (ii) postmarked on or before the date of such election are to be counted if the voter is found entitled to vote. The bill provides that a postmark includes any other official indicia of confirmation of mailing by the United States Postal Service or other postal or delivery service. Under current law, such ballots cast by military and overseas absentee voters would be counted in this manner regardless of the date of any postmark, but only if the absentee ballot had been requested on or before, but not sent by, the deadline for making absentee ballots available. <b>P&amp;E Continued it to 2019, Sen. Surovell did not resubmit...but this would be a good first step for the JLC to focus on with voting issues.</b></p>	

COME CELEBRATE

# ARMED FORCES WEEK

**MILITARY APPRECIATION DAYS**  
**FREE SANDWICH** for all active duty service members and veterans.  
Thank You For Your Service.

	<b>ARMY</b> .....	<b>MON, 5/13</b>
	<b>MARINE CORPS</b> .....	<b>TUE, 5/14</b>
	<b>NAVY</b> .....	<b>WED, 5/15</b>
	<b>AIR FORCE</b> .....	<b>THU, 5/16</b>
	<b>COAST GUARD</b> .....	<b>FRI, 5/17</b>

AN INVITATION FOR ALL ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY & VETERANS



**LUNCH WITH THE HEROES** .....

**11:00AM-2:00PM SAT, 5/18**

Join us for a **FREE SANDWICH** and be sure to arrive before Noon for our live National Anthem.

**MISSION BBQ**  
The American Way. 



## **ATTACHMENT 9**



### **VIRGINIA VALUES VETERANS' HEALTH MILITARY CULTURE AND HEALTHCARE RESOURCES TRAINING**

**This course is an introduction to understanding your veteran patients, their healthcare needs and how to address them**

If healthcare providers do not know their patient is a veteran how will they know how to sufficiently assess, treat and coordinate the appropriate veteran-specific care?

If a veteran has Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), a presumptive condition, reintegration challenges, addictions, family issues, etc... – how will a physician/healthcare provider know how to connect the dots of military service time, deployments and training environments to their veteran patient's condition, if they do not first know their patient is a veteran? And then know the follow-on questions to ask and steps to take to provide the correct services and potential resources.

**According to the Veterans Administration there are 52 Presumptive Conditions spread over 4 categories/conflicts as of Nov 2018. Does your veteran patient have a presumptive condition? Do you know what a presumptive is?**

**How many veterans' health conditions are being overlooked and not adequately addressed because the healthcare provider does not know:**

1. Patient is a veteran
2. Veteran has a condition related to time in service
3. How to assess for military PTSD/TBI/Other and follow-on veteran care
4. Veteran has a condition that should be assessed by the VA
5. Veteran has a condition that may indicate benefit eligibility
6. Veteran has a condition that should be registered with the VA (i.e., Gulf War, Depleted Uranium, Ionizing Radiation, Toxic Embedded Fragments, Airborne Hazards and Burn Pits, Agent Orange).
7. Veteran is not eligible for federal or state government services but may be eligible for other community services through NOVA Veterans Association and other local organizations

**Healthcare providers' will increase their knowledge by learning**

1. Who their veteran patients are (cannot rely on type of insurance)
2. How to ask pertinent follow-on questions based on service time/deployments/training (e.g. exposures/trauma/physical injury/stress)
3. Where to go for specific veteran resources, guidance, support
4. How to refer their veteran patients for further evaluation and/or additional resources

### **How NOVA Veterans can help health providers and their clinic/business**

1. Train healthcare providers in military culture, health conditions and resources/services as stated above
2. Have healthcare providers note on patient intake (EHR) "are you a veteran or veteran spouse?" This would prompt additional questions
3. Support organizations with data collection/capture to determine how many veteran patients the healthcare organization has, how many veterans are receiving appropriate care and which ones may potentially need more services

### **Veteran Healthcare Statistics**

- Over 726,470 veterans in Virginia (census bureau, 2015)
- Poverty rate for disabled veterans is higher than nondisabled
- Veterans receiving service-connected disability (SCD) benefits from the VA have a significantly lower poverty rate than nonveteran disabled (Veterans Poverty Trends-prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics, May 2015)
- Approximately 20 veterans a day commit suicide (VA)
- 991,000 in Virginia are low income adults/seniors/people with disabilities/children: eligible for Medicaid (Kaiser family foundation, 2017) – How many are Veterans?
- Active physicians in Virginia: 22,072 (2017 AAMC) that should receive this training
- Hundreds of thousands healthcare providers/allied healthcare providers/therapists in Virginia who could benefit from this training

### **Greater Benefits of Training**

1. Allow veterans to receive potential federal/state veteran health care services saving Virginia money in Medicaid and other community/free clinic spending
2. Healthcare providers trained in how to assess/treat/refer veterans to aligned resources and services. Giving them more tools to do their job better, easier and with greater satisfaction
3. **Virginia's Veterans are recognized and provided appropriate, warranted, and deserved treatment and care**

***NOVA Veterans Association is having great success, training over 223 healthcare providers at eight locations with 97% agree or strongly agree training was beneficial and worthwhile to their practice/business***